

## IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a slave device adapted to receive a first request from a first master device; and  
a record of one or more previous requests from the first master device and at least one additional master device, wherein the record ~~is adapted to~~ includes a storage configured to indicate which of the first master device and the at least one additional master device has had a previous request denied and a queue configured to indicate an order in which the first master device and the at least one additional master device were granted a request by the slave, wherein the slave device is adapted configured to grant the first request ~~based upon the record~~ if the storage and queue indicate that the first master is a least recently served master device of one or more master devices that has had a previous request denied by the slave device.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2 1, wherein the slave device is ~~adapted~~ configured to arrange the elements in the queue to indicate the order in which the slave device granted the one or more previous requests from the first and the at least one additional master devices device.
4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the ~~record further comprises~~ storage is a retry pool including ~~more than one position corresponding to the first master device and the at least one additional master device~~ a plurality of positions each corresponding to one of a plurality of master devices coupled to the slave device, the plurality of master devices including the first master device and the at least one additional master device.
5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein each of the plurality of ~~the more than one~~ positions in the retry pool ~~each~~ comprise a storage element.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the slave device is adapted to set the storage element at one or more positions of the retry pool to indicate whether the slave device has denied the one or more previous requests from the plurality of master devices ~~corresponding to the one or more positions~~.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the slave device is adapted to grant the first request based upon the order of the elements in the queue and the state of the storage elements at the positions in the retry pool.
8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the slave device is ~~adapted~~ configured to determine whether the slave device has denied the previous request from one or more of the plurality of master devices by examining the ~~storage elements at the positions in the retry pool~~ storage.
9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the slave device is ~~adapted~~ configured to grant the first request if ~~none of the one or more previous requests have been denied, as indicated by the retry pool~~ the storage indicates that none of the plurality of master devices have had a previous request denied.
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~10~~ 1, wherein the slave device is ~~adapted~~ configured to deny the first request if the ~~order of the queue and the storage elements in the retry pool~~ the storage and the queue indicate that the first master device is not the least recently served of the two or more master devices that have had a request denied.
12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a slave device ~~adapted~~ configured to receive a request from a first master device via a bus, wherein the first master device is one of a plurality of master devices coupled to the bus;

a queue of a plurality of elements ~~adapted~~ configured to indicate the order in which the slave device has granted at least one previous request;

a retry pool comprising a plurality of positions ~~adapted~~ configured to indicate which of the plurality of master devices have had a previous request denied by the slave device; and

an acceptor circuit ~~adapted~~ configured to grant the request based upon the queue and the retry pool, wherein the acceptor circuit is configured to grant a request to a requesting master device if the queue and the retry pool indicate that the requesting master device is a least recently served master device of one or more of the plurality of master devices that have had a previous request denied by the slave device.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the plurality of positions in the retry pool each comprise a storage element.
14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the acceptor circuit is ~~adapted~~ configured to set the storage ~~element~~ elements to indicate which of the plurality of master devices has been denied a previous request.
15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the acceptor circuit is ~~adapted~~ configured to grant the request if the storage elements in the retry pool indicate that none of the plurality of master devices has had a request denied by the slave device.
16. (Cancelled).
17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~16~~ 15, wherein the acceptor circuit is adapted to deny the request if the first master device is not the least recently

served of the master devices that have had requests denied by the slave device, as indicated by the plurality of elements in the queue and the plurality of positions in the retry pool.

18-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
receiving a request from one of a plurality of master devices;  
accessing a retry pool comprising a plurality of storage elements, wherein the storage elements are adapted to indicate which of the plurality of master devices have made at least one denied request;  
accessing a queue comprising a plurality of elements adapted to indicate the order in which the plurality of master devices have made at least one granted ~~requests~~ request;  
determining whether to grant the request based upon the queue and the retry pool, wherein the request is granted if the retry pool and the queue indicate that the one of the plurality of master devices is a least recently served master device that made a previously denied request; and  
notifying the queue and the retry pool once the request has been granted or denied.
27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein accessing the retry pool comprises examining the storage elements in the retry pool to determine if at least one of the plurality of master devices has made at least one denied request.
28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein accessing the queue comprises determining if the request is being made by the least recently served of the master devices that made at least one denied request.
29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein determining whether to grant or deny the first request comprises granting the request if the storage elements in the retry

pool indicate that none of the plurality of master devices have made at least one denied request.

30. (Cancelled).
31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~30~~ 29, wherein determining whether to grant or deny the first request comprises denying the request if the first request is not being made by the least recently served of the master devices that made at least one denied request.
32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein notifying the queue and the plurality of positions once the request has been granted or denied comprises notifying the queue if the request is granted.
33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein notifying the queue and the plurality of positions once the request has been granted or denied comprises notifying the plurality of positions if the request is denied.
34. (New) A system comprising:  
a plurality of master devices; and  
a slave device coupled to each of the plurality of master devices, wherein the slave device includes:  
a first storage configured to store ordering information indicative of an order in which at least some of the plurality of master devices were granted requests for service by the slave; and  
a second storage configured to store retry information indicative of which of the plurality of master devices were denied a previous request for service by the slave;  
wherein the slave device is configured to cause a current request to be arbitrated based upon the ordering information and the retry information.

35. (New) The system as recited in claim 34, wherein the slave device is configured to grant the current request if a one of the plurality of master devices making the current request is a least recently served one among the plurality of master devices that were denied a previous request by the slave.
36. (New) The system as recited in claim 34, wherein the slave device is configured to grant the current request if the retry information indicates that none of the plurality of master devices has had a previous request denied.
37. (New) The system as recited in claim 34, wherein the slave device is configured to deny the current request if a one of the plurality of master devices making the current request is not a least recently served among the plurality of master devices that have had a previous request denied by the slave.
38. (New) The system as recited in claim 37, wherein, responsive to denying the current request, the slave device is configured to provide information to the second storage indicating that the one of the plurality of master devices making the current request has had a previous request denied.
39. (New) The system as recited in claim 34, wherein in response to receiving a request, the slave device is configured to determine if any of the plurality of master devices has had a previous request denied as indicated by the retry information.
40. (New) The system as recited in claim 39, wherein the slave device is configured to determine if a master device making the request is a least recently served one of the plurality of master devices, as indicated by the ordering information.
41. (New) The system as recited in claim 40, wherein the slave device is configured to determine if the least recently served one of the plurality of master devices has

had a previous request denied if the master device making the request is not the least recently served one of the plurality of master devices.

42. (New) The system as recited in claim 41, wherein the slave device is configured to determine if another one of the plurality of master devices corresponding to a next entry in the ordering information has had a previous request denied if the least recently served one of the plurality of master devices did not have a previous request denied as indicated by the retry information.